

11 September 1954

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CHINESE NATIONALIST TROOP STRENGTH ON THE QUEMOYS

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The arrival on 10 September of a division of reinforcements -- numbering about 9,000 men, all MAAG-trained and MDAP-equipped -- brings the strength of regular Chinese Nationalist forces on the Quemoy to approximately 51,000; this figure includes combat units, headquarters personnel, and supply and service units. Prior to the arrival of these reinforcements, there were approximately 42,000 regular Nationalist forces on the Quemoy, according to a detailed report from the U. S. army attache at Taipei on 9 September.

These figures do not differ significantly from those given in CS PD-195. This latter report states that "tactical troops" are "probably closer (to) 24,000." This figure represents a calculation for combat effectives, not for troops of all types. The report goes on to state that total strength may have been "nearer 40,000" before the arrival of reinforcements.

There is thus a discrepancy, between the U. S. Army G-2 figure and the CIA/FI figure, of perhaps 2,000 men. Inasmuch as the source for all figures is the Chinese Nationalist ministry of national defense, which is notoriously imprecise in regard to the number of troops actually serving in Nationalist army units, it is gratifying that the discrepancy is not larger.

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Guerrilla strength on the Quemoy was approximately 6,000 in July 1954, according to CIA/FI. This figure was revised upward by FI at the end of August to approximately 11,000, a figure for official purposes, although it was believed that the figure represented guerrilla strength for the entire Quemoy command, which includes other islands farther north along the coast. This belief was supported by the detailed report of the U. S. army attache at Taipei on 9 September, which placed guerrilla strength on the Quemoy at 6,000.

Subsequent information from CIA/FI has indicated that guerrilla strength is much lower than 6,000; FI currently estimates the correct figure to be 1,350. This figure, when received, was so at variance with previous information that it was not used for official purposes pending a re-check by CIA/FI.

FI now reports in PD-195 that the figure of 1,350 guerrillas stands up under recheck; this figure is now accepted by G-2. It probably represents a close approximation to the number of actual guerrillas still present on the Quemoy and organized into units.